We Claim:

1. A printhead re-capping assembly for a printer having a chassis, a platen assembly and a pagewidth printhead operatively mounted on the chassis to carry out a printing operation on print media passing over the platen assembly, the re-capping assembly comprising

a base structure that is mounted on the chassis;

at least one static solenoid that is mounted on the base structure and that is connected to an electrical power supply of the printer;

a support member that is actuable by the solenoid to be movable with respect to the chassis between an operative position and an inoperative position; and

a printhead capping member that is mounted on the support member such that when the support member is in the operative position, the capping member engages the printhead to cap the printhead and when the support member is in the inoperative position, the capping member is disengaged from the printhead.

2. A printhead re-capping assembly as claimed in claim 1, in which the support member is configured to be normally in the operative position and to move into the inoperative position when the solenoid is energized by the electrical power supply.

3. A printhead re-capping assembly as claimed in claim 2, in which a biasing mechanism is engaged with the support member to bias the support member into the operative position when the solenoid is de-energized.

4. A printhead re-capping assembly as claimed in claim 1, in which the base structure and the solenoid are both elongate to correspond with a length of the printhead.

5. A printhead re-capping assembly as claimed in claim 4, in which the support member is also elongate and corresponds generally with the printhead.

6. A printhead re-capping assembly as claimed in claim 5, in which the capping member includes a length of sponge that is dimensioned to cover the printhead when the support member is displaced into its operative position.

7. A printhead re-capping assembly as claimed in claim 6, which includes a sealing member

that is positioned on the support member to bound the length of sponge such that, when the length of sponge caps the printhead, the sealing member serves to seal a region about the printhead.